Complaints Regarding Adulteration

†112. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps against whom complaints regarding sale of adulterated petrol, diesel and oil and less supply of same have been received by Government during the past two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have made a statement that stringent action would be taken against such petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the number of petrol pumps, licences of which have been cancelled alongwith the number of pending complaints and by when action would be taken on these companies;

(d) whether Government have received a complaint about Soami Service Station, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi also; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The number of complaints received by the oil marketing companies regarding adulteration and short delivery against retail outlets during the last two years is as follows:—

Year	No. of complaints
1997-98	90
1998-99	89

(b) and (c) Stringent action has been taken on the complaints received which includes cancellation of licences and suspension of supplies by Oil Companies; suspension/cancellation of licences by the State Govt. etc. depending upon the gravity of the case.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) The concerned oil company has not received any complaint regarding adulteration or short delivery against M/s Soami Service Station, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi.

Mixing of Kerosene in Petrol

†113. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kerosene is being widely mixed in petrol and diesel;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of heavy increase in gas consumers in urban areas the demand of kerosene is still increasing; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Governemnt to check adulteration and to extend benefit of this scheme to the really needy persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated product and the annual/monthly allocation is made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to States/UTs. The distribution of kerosene and its monitoring within the State is the responsibility of concerned State Govt. PDS kerosene and LPG are subsidised products. Central Govt. has insisted upon State Governments to identify the ration card holders having LPG connection and delete their names from the ration cards which entitles them PDS kerosene.

(c) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, sepcial drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.